

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-15 (Canceled).

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): An information storage medium configured to have data recorded thereon and data reproduced therefrom by an information recording/reproducing apparatus, said data including control information and audio/video data having a plurality of still picture ~~objects~~ ~~video-object~~, said medium comprising:

a control information area for storing,

a still picture audio/video file information table including still picture audio/video file information for managing the still picture ~~objects~~ ~~video-object~~,
original program chain information,

a user defined program chain information table including one or more pieces of user defined program chain information, each of which has a given number, and

video manager information located at a leading portion of the control information area, said video manager information including playlist search pointer information containing program chain number information corresponding to the given number of the user defined program chain information,
wherein said still picture audio/video file information includes group information of the still picture ~~objects~~ ~~video-object~~,

said group information includes entry information of the still picture ~~objects~~ ~~video-object~~; and

a data area for recording the audio/video data is configured to include a sub-picture stream, wherein said entry information includes entry type information containing number information indicating whether the sub-picture stream is included,

said sub-picture stream is configured to include bitmap data, and
the information recording/reproducing apparatus accesses the control information area
to reproduce the still picture objects.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): An information recording method for recording data on a medium, said medium configured to have data recorded thereon and data reproduced therefrom by an information recording/reproducing apparatus, said data including control information and audio/video data having a plurality of still picture objects ~~video-object~~, said medium comprising:

a control information area for storing,

a still picture audio/video file information table including still picture audio/video file information for managing the still picture objects ~~video-object~~,

original program chain information,

a user defined program chain information table including one or more pieces of user defined program chain information, each of which has a given number, and

video manager information located at a leading portion of the control information area, said video manager information including playlist search pointer information containing program chain number information corresponding to the given number of the user defined program chain information,

wherein said still picture audio/video file information includes group information of the still picture objects ~~video-object~~,

said group information includes entry information of the still picture objects ~~video-object~~; and

a data area for recording the audio/video data is configured to include a sub-picture stream, wherein said entry information includes entry type information containing number information indicating whether the sub-picture stream is included, and

said sub-picture stream is configured to include bitmap data,

said method comprising:

recording the audio/video data on the data area; and

storing the control information on the control information area.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): An information reproducing method for reproducing data from a medium, said medium configured to have data recorded thereon and data reproduced therefrom by an information recording/reproducing apparatus, said data including control information and audio/video data having a plurality of still picture ~~objects~~ video ~~object~~, said medium comprising:

a control information area for storing,

a still picture audio/video file information table including still picture audio/video file information for managing the still picture objects ~~video-object~~,
original program chain information,

a user defined program chain information table including one or more pieces of user defined program chain information, each of which has a given number, and

video manager information located at a leading portion of the control information area, said video manager information including playlist search pointer information containing program chain number information corresponding to the given number of the user defined program chain information,

wherein said still picture audio/video file information includes group information of the still picture objects ~~video-object~~,

said group information includes entry information of the still picture objects ~~video~~ object; and

a data area for recording the audio/video data is configured to include a sub-picture stream, wherein said entry information includes entry type information containing number information indicating whether the sub-picture stream is included, and

said sub-picture stream is configured to include bitmap data,

said method comprising:

reproducing the control information from the control information area; and

reproducing the audio/video data from the data area.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): An information reproducing apparatus for reproducing data from an information storage medium configured to have data recorded thereon and data reproduced therefrom by an information recording/reproducing apparatus, said data including control information and audio/video data having a plurality of still picture objects, said medium comprising,

a control information area for storing,

a still picture audio/video file information table including still picture audio/video file information for managing the still picture objects,

original program chain information,

a user defined program chain information table including one or more pieces of user defined program chain information, each of which has a given number, and

video manager information located at a leading portion of the control information area, said video manager information including playlist search pointer information containing program chain number information corresponding to the given number of the user defined program chain information,

wherein said still picture audio/video file information includes group information of the still picture objects,

said group information includes entry information of the still picture objects;

a data area for recording the audio/video data is configured to include a sub-picture stream, wherein said entry information includes entry type information containing number information indicating whether the sub-picture stream is included, and

said sub-picture stream is configured to include bitmap data,

~~the medium as defined in claim 16,~~ said apparatus comprising:

a first reproducer configured to reproduce the control information from the control information area; and

a second reproducer configured to reproduce the audio/video data from the data area.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 16-19 are pending in this application. Claims 16-19 are amended by the present amendment. As amended Claims 16-19 are supported by the original disclosure,¹ no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101; Claims 16-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kim et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,421,499, hereinafter Kim).

As for the rejection of Claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §101, that rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 16 is amended to recite that the information recording/reproducing apparatus accesses the control information area to reproduce the still picture objects. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

MPEP §2106 discusses statutory subject matter in relation to data structures of a computer readable medium. Particularly, MPEP §2106 provides,

a claimed computer-readable medium encoded with a data structure defines structural and functional interrelationships between the data structure and the computer software and hardware components which permit the data structure's functionality to be realized, and is thus statutory.

Thus, based on the clear language of this section, Claim 16 is statutory as it defines a functionality of which is realized based on the interrelationship of the structure to the medium and recited hardware components.

Further, should the Examiner disagree with the above passage, MPEP §2106 also states that,

¹See, e.g. the specification at page 81, line 25 to page 82, line 4 and Figures 31-34.

Whenever practicable, Office personnel should indicate how rejections may be overcome and how problems may be resolved. A failure to follow this approach can lead to unnecessary delays in the prosecution of the application.

Applicants respectfully submit, as noted above, that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101 should be withdrawn. However, if the rejection under U.S.C. §101 is to be maintained, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide an explanation of the rejection in view of the guidelines of MPEP §2106.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 16-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Kim, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 16 recites in part, "said sub-picture stream is configured to include bitmap data."

In contrast, Kim describes a method for creating and managing navigation information in a recording medium. Kim does not describe that any of the described items recorded on the medium include bitmap data. The outstanding Office Action² apparently cites the description of a text stream (such as IT_TXT managed by TXT_DT_MG)³ in Kim as "a sub-picture stream." However, the text stream of Kim includes, for example, ASCII codes, not bitmap data. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Kim does not teach "said sub-picture stream is configured to include bitmap data," as recited in Claim 16. Accordingly, Claim 16 is not anticipated by Kim and is patentable thereover.

Independent Claims 17-19 recite similar elements to Claim 16. Consequently, Claims 17-19 are believed to be patentable over Kim for at least the reasons described above with respect to Claim 16.

²See outstanding Office Action, page 4, line 4.

³See Kim, Figure 1.

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Accordingly, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

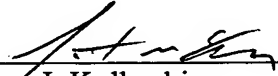
Respectfully submitted,

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